

The Times Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY. Business Office: 116 E. Main Street. Washington Bureau: 3527 Munsey Building. Manchester Bureau: 1102 Hill Street. Petersburg Bureau: 40 N. Sycamore St. Lynchburg Bureau: 215 Fifth St.

BY MAIL. One Six Three One POSTAGE PAID. Year Mo. Mo. Mo. Daily with Sunday: \$6.00 42.00 11.50 .55 Daily without Sunday: 4.00 2.00 1.00 .35 Sunday only: 1.00 .50 .25 .10 Weekly (Wednesday) 1.00 .50 .25 .10

Entered, January 27, 1902, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1907.

God's goodness! I believe in it as in His sunshine.—E. B. Browning.

The Rate Decision.

The decision of the State Corporation Commission of the trunk lines of Virginia, on and after July 1st, shall put into effect and observe a maximum rate of two cents a mile for intrastate transportation of passengers in Virginia.

Whatever may be said in criticism of the decision, it is free from demagoguery, and it lays down certain general principles as to the relation of the government to the railroads, and the relation of the railroads to the progress and prosperity of the country.

The commission recognizes the binding force and the justice of the principle that a carrier has the right to earn its operating expenses and a fair return upon a fair value of the property used in the service.

This is based on the value of roadbed alone, and does not consider equipment, station buildings, terminals, etc., but taking everything into the calculation, the commission is sure that the roads are earning six per cent, net on a valuation largely in excess of \$50,000,000 per mile for everything.

But the commission deems it the height of unwisdom and mistaken policy to restrict the railroad companies to the utmost point legally permissible, or anywhere near that point.

On the contrary, the commission deems it manifestly wise and proper that the railroads, as one of the greatest agencies of civilization and prosperity, on the successful operation of which practically every industry and every community is largely dependent, should be given every reasonable encouragement and dealt with as liberally as the public interests and the welfare of their patrons will permit.

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It is that if the rate thus established prove to be a serious injury to the roads, it will be revised. Our Corporation Commission is a judicial body, and it will "reform with equity," or it will "not reform at all."

In the matter of freight rates, it is understood that no radical changes will be made—that is to say, none that will seriously affect the revenues of the roads. The changes will be for the most part in the interest of uniformity.

Altogether the decision seems to us to be fair and judicial, and we believe that it will prove to be beneficial to the railroads. Experience shows that in those States where the two-cent rate has been enforced, the railroads have in the main gained more than they have lost.

Objection No. 5. In discussing objection No. 5 to the Torrens system, Mr. E. C. Massie says: "Some lawyers have objected to the Torrens system because, they say, it makes the State the guarantor of titles and thus puts the State into a business that should be attended to by private enterprise."

The greatest on earth is man, and the greatest in man is mind, and the greatest function of the mind is to think. The ability to think is man's chief distinction.

Thought is the instrument of all his work; for without it there is nothing done that can truly be called work. Without thought the hand would neither know what to do nor how to do it.

It is impossible to estimate the value of thought. Work without wit or wisdom is of little value. All works of skill are costly, and skilled labor commands the highest market price.

If a man does not lead his thoughts some other power will, and every power (but the true one) will make itself felt more and more, and man less; so that if the flesh leads, he becomes carnal; if the world, worldly; if the devil, devilish.

The Evidence of Experience. The series of letters from the affiliated colleges in Toronto which appeared in The Times-Dispatch of April 21st shows by experience the feasibility of the plan for the University of Richmond.

The heart liveth with its treasure and surrounds it with constant thought. We should watch those thoughts which come unbidden; note well their character, and ascertain their right to the place they seek to occupy.

But how are we to lead our thoughts into captivity? Thought may be led, but it cannot be forced. We must present to the mind that which is agreeable to its nature, and simply ask for obedience to an authority which, though it speaks without, appeals to its own Amen within.

It is to be noted that the Baptist Institution in Toronto, MacMaster, is absolutely independent and separate, though adjacent to the other colleges, and yet its president says: "The presence of the University of Toronto and its many affiliated colleges in the same city, has, too, been helpful in every way."

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ment." Back of that striking statement are seventeen years of concrete experience in such a group of colleges. A small college was moved from Lima to Syracuse, N. Y. What has been the effect of the removal? Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University, writes: "We now have resources of about five million dollars, a student enrollment of over three thousand, a faculty of 213, an income from tuition fees of over \$150,000 and twenty-two educational buildings, the most of them very large and imposing. Colleges that have remained in back-town villages like Lima have remained small and weak, and have little prospect of anything better in future."

The Virginia Flag. In reply to an inquiry we recite the following facts concerning the history of the Virginia flag: A convention of the people of Virginia which met on February 13, 1861, and continued until April 17th, adopted an ordinance setting forth: "That the flag of this Commonwealth shall hereafter be made of bunting, which shall be a deep blue field with a circle of white in the centre, upon which shall be painted or embroidered, to show" on both sides alike, the coat of arms of the State, as described by the convention of 1776, for one side of the seal of the State, namely: Virtus, the genius of the Commonwealth, dressed like an Amazon, resting on a spear with one hand, and holding a sword in the other and treading on Tyranny, represented by a man prostrate, a crown fallen from his head, a broken chain in his left hand and a scourge in his right.

Remedy for Car-Shortage. That the car-shortage is regarded as serious by the railroads is shown by the determination of the American Railway Association, one of the most powerful organizations in the country, to remedy the evil quickly and effectively. At the meeting last week in Chicago a rule was adopted providing a penalty of \$5 on every road which fails to return a car belonging to another line with promptness and dispatch.

The Captivity of Thought. "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."—II. Cor. x. 5. Thought is the instrument of all his work; for without it there is nothing done that can truly be called work.

Representative Hardwick, of Georgia, prophesies that the State's peach crop will be a total failure. Those who credit this prediction will do well to lay in now a few barrels of the Houson Post's remarkable succulent and low-priced strawberries.

Mr. Bryan intimates that if he were worth a million dollars he would be glad to serve as President without pay. On the other hand, many of us, if we were given a million dollars, would cheerfully promise not to run.

A New York judge has ruled that getting a law to prevent a lady from setting down a sign in front of her house, is not a violation of the law, if we were given a million dollars, would cheerfully promise not to run.

President Tucker says that Mr. Roosevelt is the best friend that an exposition could have. Well, how can the times that Bellamy made an exposition of himself, Mr. Tucker?

A Milwaukee man has sued for divorce because his wife declines to talk to him. Fortuna sometimes makes queer errors in the distribution of her favors.

Could the original John Smith have dropped in for a few minutes on Friday, he would no doubt have gotten the greatest surprise of a not unprofitable career.

But doubtless the Altoona man who says that his car burn ashes has never tried his hand on the by-product of a Christmas gift cigar.

Lines from a Broken Heart. I DON'T know why I should feel I'm sad and sadder than I am my wont— (Indeed, to be quite frank with you, I don't; I'm feeling happy as a Bart.)

My soul's been tossed this too long while, My heart too torn with dull new pain; I doubt if I shall ever smile again.

Henceforth I'll loose a caustic wit Upon a world that's turned so drear, And face life with a bitter, bitter sneer.

After the Ball. Teacher: "Now, children, remember the text, 'Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you die.'" Pupil: "Please, teacher, in our family we don't. We all take castor oil next day."

Where Was the Joker? Policeman: "Fifty-three articles?" Rambling Wazels: "Yes, a pack of cards and a cork screw."—Tit-Bits.

Where He Got the Nerve. Raynor: "It took nerve, didn't it, to break yourself of the habit of smoking, at your age?" Shyne: "Well, you thought right." Green: "But he has recently been declared a bankrupt."

JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES LOOSE AGAIN? reports the Chicago Inter-Ocean in a headline over his Chicago speech, "The way we are not to infer that he was right when he delivered the previous one?"—Washington Post.

COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS. Instructing the People. The Times-Dispatch, at the suggestion of this paper, is publishing daily a series of interesting articles by Colonel Eugene C. Masie on the subject of the Torrens system of land registration.

Building in Roanoke in 1900. From the official report of the city engineer, there were issued in this city during the past year 284 permits for new residences at a total estimated cost of \$74,500, or an average cost of \$1762.

Good for Sore Eyes. Join the band—all the pretty maids in the South will be sponsors at the reunion in Richmond next month.—Pulaski News-Review.

Jefferson Davis. No man suffered for the South as Jefferson Davis did, and no man is entitled to a warmer place in our hearts or after monuments in honor of his memory.

JUST RECEIVED. LARGE CHOICE SHIPMENT OF THE BEST FRUITS. Any size basket prepared and delivered anywhere in Richmond. Express shipments made on order out of town.

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Rhymes for To-Day

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Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I was very glad to read the letter of Colonel William O. Skelton in your issue of April 27th. I am, I think, the only man in the South who has a personal acquaintance with General Lee. The "swap" is unfair. General Lee was a soldier, whose duty was in the field, but he was not completely the Southern Cause, as completely as President Davis, who stood at the head of the government. Now, no Northern man is bound to accept President Davis's political principles; but why is the mention made of him to most of them like flaunting a red flag in the face of a bull? Compare him with Lincoln, and in what respect does he fall short? Was he in fact a man of ability? Was he, sometimes during the war Mr. Davis probably made some poor selections, as things turned out; but did not Lincoln make as many, or more, mistakes? President Lincoln himself, frequently than Mr. Davis, Mr. John C. Ropes, of Massachusetts, in his "Story of the Civil War," declares that though "the (Mr. Lincoln) was utterly without any intelligent grasp of the conduct of all military operations should be regulated, he reserved to himself and his Secretary (Stanton) the conduct of all military operations."

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PRO BONO PUBLICO. Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—In your editorial on "Bucket-Shops" you state that "The brokerage business is legitimate, even though there be a bona fide purchase and sale." The New York World said recently that "The New York Stock Exchange only about three per cent. were real, the rest being matched sales or speculative." The latter is a fair compromise. Let both sections of the Union prosper. Let us not get a percentage or commission like the men who pick up the "scrap" or adviser to the speculator, and having better information, the temptation to take the whole of the profit is often not resisted. The quotations of prices on the exchanges are manipulated with a similar object, as an illustration of the same thing. The New York Cotton Exchange have become so notorious as to call for an appeal by the Southern Cotton Growers' Association, and here are men who pick up the "scrap" and follow the example. The speculators and the few investors on margins, or partial payments, have made out some money, but the commission and compound interest and the creation of fictitious prices, but they have also risked the failure of the business, and limit their business to their capital. J. L. WOOD, Ivy Depot, Va.

A Woman's Plea. Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Seeing your editorial this morning "To Clean the City Hall," seems a step in the right direction, and may a woman add her plea? The proposed plan; its pleasant prospective of real improvement in present conditions and health-giving, cheering and satisfying, is simple, but the essential reduction of useless expenditure, makes it a potent and clamorous appeal to the Mayor and City Council to get the matter straightened out. The man familiar with such work? Why is it that the City Hall, the post-office, the State Library, railway stations and public buildings here and elsewhere are so filthy in other cities. Certainly with the money expended or one-half of it, we might have better results. The cleaners cannot know how to clean. Hot water and a plenty of good soap should be used, and generously used. The vulgar, but inevitable cuspidors (or spittoons) should be placed in every room, and left to soak overnight until placed in position in the morning. This should be done three or four times a week and always from Saturday night business hours, till Monday morning. In the public buildings there should be some arrangement for heating water. A large tank, with a boiler, and a sufficient in size and quantity. These should be kept clean and ready for use. Generally women are better cleaners than men, but not nearly so much of some way we should have better results. Thanking you for this space in your valuable paper, I am, sir, very respectfully, CLEANLINESS.

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